

9-1-1 Surcharge Proposal on November Election Ballot

The Kent County Board of Commissioners approved a November Election ballot proposal asking voters to increase the 9-1-1 surcharge to \$1.15 per month, per phone line or \$13.80 per year, per phone line. Currently, residents pay a \$.45 per month surcharge.

9-1-1 dispatch in Kent Co. operates on eight different radio systems that cannot directly communicate with each other. Often during emergency situations, first responders (police, deputies, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians) from different agencies cannot communicate directly even

though they are all responding to the same call for help. Some first responders carry multiple devices in order to talk to various responding agencies. This has led to lapses in communication, especially if information is transmitted to a wrong device, which can easily be corrected with new technology. In addition, Kent Co. and City of Grand Rapids dispatchers cannot communicate via radio with dispatchers or first responders on the communication system that Ottawa, Allegan, Ionia, and Newaygo counties, as well as the Michigan State Police, use. In incidents involving these agencies,

dispatchers use telephones to communicate with other dispatch agencies and then relay the message to their first responders, which takes more time to complete.

The increased surcharge will be used for two purposes. First, it will upgrade radio equipment to ensure one countywide system is able to connect all emergency providers with other agencies in the state. Second, it will provide a consistent source of funding for countywide fire dispatch.

For more information on the upcoming surcharge visit www.accesskent.com/911.

MAYOR'S

Message



Next month, we will have the opportunity to vote for candidates and proposals that will shape our future. While it is easy to focus on the national stage, the local elections are also critically important because they influence the direction of your immediate community.

Many of us will head to the polls with the intent to cast our vote on which presidential candidate we prefer, however, we will also be asked to vote on an important issue that affects us locally and that is the Public Safety Dispatch Surcharge for Kent Co.

The additional funds will allow Kent Co. to purchase communication towers and 800 MHz equipment, which would put all dispatchers and first responders in the county on the Michigan Public Safety Communications System. This will allow instant communication between state, county and local Public Safety. Technology upgrades for our dispatch centers is crucial in delivering the highest standard of public safety for our residents and our first responders.

I encourage all of our citizens to "be involved and be informed" by exercising your privilege to vote.

Fire Prevention Month

During the month of October municipalities across the U.S. will be celebrating Fire Prevention Month.

The Wyoming Department of Public Safety is committed to reducing the tragedy and devastation of fire-related deaths and injuries. To achieve this goal, our personnel actively seek every available opportunity to teach fire safety to citizens young and old.

Station tours and fire prevention programs are offered to school classes, scout troops, and other groups. Hands-on fire extinguisher training and CPR classes are also available upon request.

For more information, or to schedule a tour, call 530.7250.

News Briefs

DIVISION AVENUE FORM BASED CODE ZONING

The City has initiated the rezoning of commercial properties fronting Division Ave. from Alger Street to 60th Street to a Form Based Code (FBC), which will allow a greater range of land uses. The FBC will provide greater opportunities for redevelopment and investment with the intention of reinvigorating the corridor. For more information, contact planning and development at 530.7266.

WYOMING SENIOR CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

On Monday, Oct. 31, the Wyoming Senior Center (WSC) will visit historic Charlton Park in Hastings. There will be a tour through the village, comprised of a number of 19th and early 20th century structures. The bus will leave the WSC at 9:00 a.m. and return around noon. Pre-registration is required; call 530.3190. Fee: \$5.00

Join the WSC on a trip to Soaring Eagle Casino on Thursday, Nov. 3 departing the WSC at 8:30 a.m. and returning at approx. 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 with pre-registration required; call 530.3190. Must be at least 18 years of age.

KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY

An adult book club is held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Wyoming Public Library conference room. "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" by Ransom Riggs will be the discussion title for September. October's discussion book will be "Poisoning the Pecks of Grand Rapids" by Tobin Buhk.

Presented in partnership with the Literacy Center of West Michigan, the library is hosting an ESL Conversation Club that will allow those learning English to practice with other adults. Registration is limited to adults 18 and older. The sessions will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 30, Oct. 7, and Oct. 14. RSVP to the Literacy Center to reserve a spot by calling 459.5151.

La vida en ocasiones nos lleva a caminos inesperados. Pero nunca es demasiado tarde para hacer cambios y descubrir el "qué sigue?" Únase a nuestro chequeo gratuito de Life Reimagined (un programa de AARP) en donde lo invitamos a evaluar sus metas y aspiraciones, descubrir sus cualidades e inspirarse a tomar los siguientes pasos hacia adelante en su propia vida. Éste el momento que ha estado esperando, aprovéchelo! El Chequeo de Vida es un taller de dos horas abierto para cualquier persona de la comunidad. Pre-registrarse es requerido. Visita kdl.org para registrarse. Sigue el enlace para más detalles <https://aarp.cvent.com/lr102016>. Fecha: El jueves, 20 de octubre. Hora: 18:00 a 20:00.

Explore the mysterious side of Michigan with author and researcher Amberrose Hammond. Delve into Michigan's ghostly lore, haunted history, forgotten criminals and strange places. The Strange, Spooky, Wicked Michigan will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

The Wyoming Friends of the Library will hold a used book sale on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The bag sale begins at 2 p.m. and allows readers to purchase a bag for \$3 and fill it with books.

For further details on these and the library's many programs, stop in to pick up a program guide, check out www.kdl.org, or call 784.2007.

Telephone Numbers

Mayor's Office	530-7227
City Manager.....	530-3173
City Clerk	530-7296
Police Department.....	530-7300
Fire Department	530-7250
Public Works	530-7260
Utilities	261-3550
Planning & Community Development.....	530-7258
Parks & Recreation.....	530-3164
Building Inspections.....	530-7285
Assessor	530-7231
District Court.....	257-9814
Treasurer	530-7280
Utility Billing.....	530-7389
Wyoming Senior Center.....	530-3190
Wyoming Public Library.....	784-2007

Meetings

City Council Meeting | on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

City Council Work Sessions | on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Planning Commissions Meetings | on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Zoning Board Of Appeals | on the first and third Monday afternoons of the month at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Parks & Recreation Commission | on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the West Conference Room

Wyoming City Council

Jack Poll, Mayor
 Sam Bolt, Mayor Pro tem,
 Council Member-at-Large
 Dan Burrill, Council Member-at-Large
 Kent Vanderwood, Council Member-at-Large
 Bill VerHulst, 1st Ward Council Member
 Richard K. Pastoor, 2nd Ward Council Member
 Joanne Voorhees, 3rd Ward Council Member

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